

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN CU-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR (BILLINGTON, JAMES)

SUBJECT: BILLINGTON VISIT TO THE USSR

REF: MOSCOW 14948

1. SOVIET EMBASSY AS OF MORNING OF SEPT 23 HAS NOT ISSUED BILLINGTON'S VISA. DEPT RAISED IT ON SEPT 22 WITH VORONTSOV, WHO SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET DECISION MAKERS NOW IN NEW YORK FOR UNGA.

2. RE QUERY IN REFTEL ON VISA APPLICATION, ORIGINAL APPLICATION FOR VISA TO CONSULT ON U.S.-SOVIET EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE HAS NOT BEEN ALTERED. HOWEVER, IN CONVERSATION WITH VORONTSOV, WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT PURPOSE OF BILLINGTON CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSY ON THE PROGRAM WILL STAND EVEN IF APPOINTMENTS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS FOR CONSULTATION ARE NOT POSSIBLE. BILLINGTON WILL BE TRAVELING ON A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, AND APPLICATION WAS FOR A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIPLOMATIC VISA.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD AGAIN QUERY USA DIVISION IN VIEW OF FACT
THAT BILLINGTON IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART US SEPT 25. ROBINSON

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